

Application No.: 09/111833

Case No.: 49360US015

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim as set forth below.

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (previously presented) Electret filter media comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and (3) drying the web.

15. (previously presented) A resilient cup-shaped filtration face mask adapted to cover the nose and mouth of the wearer of the mask comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and (3) drying of the web.

16. (currently amended) A respirator mask assembly comprising a facepiece comprising at least one inhalation port, inhalation valve, and inhalation filter and at least one exhalation port and exhalation valve, a face seal supported by the face piece and a harness for supporting the facepiece on a wearer's head, said inhalation filter comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and (3) drying of the web.

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17. (previously presented) A nonwoven web that contains nonconductive thermoplastic microfibers and that has an electric charge imparted thereto by the steps comprising: (1) subjecting the nonwoven web that contains nonconductive thermoplastic microfibers to a corona treatment, followed by (2) contacting the nonconductive nonwoven web that contains thermoplastic microfibers with water in manner sufficient to provide the nonwoven web with filtration enhancing electret charge, and then (3) drying the nonwoven web.

18. (previously presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic microfibers are polypropylene microfibers, poly(4-methyl-1-pentene) microfibers, or blends thereof.

19. (previously presented) The product of claim 17 wherein the thermoplastic microfibers comprise polypropylene and poly(4-methyl-1-pentene).

20. (canceled)